

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY LONG TERM VEGETATIVE COVER ON CROPLAND  
DCR Specifications for No. VSL-1

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's voluntary permanent vegetative cover on cropland best management practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

Grass and/or legume vegetation will be established on cropland with existing cover of less than 60% converting it to pasture or hay land to reduce soil erosion and enhance water quality.

This practice is intended to document and promote conversion of cropland to fields with a healthy, well-maintained sod.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice is not intended to be used to reseed or improve hay or pastureland.
2. Pastures and hay lands that are planted under this practice should be grazed or harvested and maintained in accordance with NRCS Standard 512 for the lifespan. This practice is subject to spot-check by the District throughout the life of the practice.
3. Fertility - Lime and fertilizer should be applied for establishment purposes in accordance with current soil test recommendations (at VPI cooperative extension establishment rates for the appropriate sod species). Maintenance applications are the obligation of the participant. If biosolids or manure is used, the material must be properly sampled and tested for nutrient content and given credit in fertilizer recommendations. Test results must be part of practice documentation. Nutrient application should not exceed the recommendations of *the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria, revised July, 2014*.
4. This practice is subject to NRCS Standard 512 Forage and Biomass Planting.
5. All practice components implemented should be maintained for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of certification of completion. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the year of certification of completion. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice.
6. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
7. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.

8. Producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field that this practice will be implemented on. The NMP must comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, (4VAC50-85 et seq.) and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014), must be prepared and certified by a Virginia certified nutrient management planner, and must be on file with the local District. Plans shall also contain any specific production management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VACV50-85-130G).

C. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

Revised March, 2018